

Caistor St. Edmund Early Medieval Coins Recorded by the Fitzwilliam Museum

The table below summarises the entries for the Parish of Caistor St. Edmund held on the Early Medieval Coin database at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Description	Date Range	Number
Early Continental	580 - 750	16
Early England	600 - 750	11
East Anglia	700 - 880	5
Kent	616 - 825	1
Mercia Offa	757 - 879	1
Anglo-Saxon England Cnut & Edward the Confessor	871 - 1066	2
Norman England - Stephen	1066 - 1154	1

This is a small assemblage of coins recovered from as far back as the late 1800's. Accepting this caveat it can be seen that the record of coin losses is dominated by the late 6th to mid 8th centuries. The limited coin losses post the mid 9th century are possibly a reflection of the decline of Caistor and the rise of Norwich to pre-eminence as the most important Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area.

Between 1979 and 1989 two metal detectorists working under the watchful eye of the late Tony Gregory recovered one Mervingian gold coin (circa AD 650) and 21 8th century silver sceattas from Dunston Field. Further survey work by a local metal detectorist and the CRP's own team produced a further 20 coins, circa two thirds of which date between AD 720 - 760 (i). Whilst we don't have the precise finds spots for the coins recorded in the EMC database it is likely that the principal source was the area to the west of the town which includes Dunston Field. Adrian Marsden suggests that the peak period of coin circulation in the Dunston Field area is AD 700- 760.

The one coin we can place within a secure stratified context is the Series E 'Porcupine' type sceatta recovered from the fill of the Dunston Field SFB which dates to the first half of the 8th century and photographed in the hand on the day it came out. 10 of the coins in the above table are also Series E sceattas.



(i) The Middle Saxon coins from the Caistor St. Edmund excavations and metal detector survey 2012 by Adrian Marsden.